

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 2, first full paragraph:

The term target object is to be interpreted as widely as possible. It can be constituted by ~~discreet~~ discrete objects and also materials, i.e. particularly fluids, such as liquids and gases, as well as bulk materials. Hereinafter the terms target object and object are used as synonyms. The term position with respect to fluids and bulk materials is also understood to mean their distribution or extension.

Paragraph spanning pages 7 and 8:

An important structural and fundamental difference of the present invention compared with the prior art is that the capacitance directly supplied by the generator, i. e. the coupling capacitance, always remains substantially uninfluenced. Therefore, the inventive probe arrangement can be implemented with ~~discreet~~ discrete capacitors. Unlike in the prior art, in the present invention initially the follow-up capacitance is modified by the approach of an object. Such a follow-up capacitance is not present in the prior art.

Page 10, second full paragraph:

The probes and coupling electrodes can in principle be placed within the support. In a simple variant, which is e.g. made from a bilaterally coated circuit board, the probes and coupling electrodes are in fact placed directly on the outside of the support. An arrangement of coupling electrodes within the support can be preferable if for shielding or receiving further circuit components on or in said support, further metal coatings, are provided. These variants are appropriately used where shielding against interference fields is necessary. In principle, it is also possible for the coupling capacitances to be at least partly constructed as ~~discreet~~ discrete capacitors. This can e.g. be advantageous if individual probes have to be differently positioned for different applications.

Paragraph spanning pages 13 and 14:

Fig. 1 diagrammatically shows a first embodiment of a device 10 according to the invention. Device 10 generally comprises a plurality, i.e. at least two, capacitive measuring plates or probes 20, 30, 40. By means of coupling capacitors 22, 32, 42 an AC voltage as the supply voltage is coupled from a voltage source 14 onto probes 20, 30, 40. Capacitances 24, 34, 44 are formed between the individual probes 20, 30, 40 and the object 12 to be detected-as the target object. These capacitances are shown in fig. 1 in the manner of an equivalent circuit diagram. The coupling capacitances 22, 32, 42 must not necessarily be ~~discreet~~ discrete capacitors.

Page 16, last paragraph:

The coupling capacitances 22, 32, 42 of device 10 shown in fig. 1 can in principle be constructed as ~~discreet~~ discrete capacitors 23, 33, 43, as is diagrammatically illustrated in fig. 9. This variant is particularly appropriate if the positioning of one or more probes is to be modified, e.g. in order to monitor different areas or paths. In the example shown in fig. 9 probes 20, 30, 40 are positioned linearly in an area 16 to be monitored.